





#### Disclaimer

Every attempt has been made to provide complete and thorough information on the North Carolina laws pertaining to bicycles and pedestrians. Neither ITRE nor NCDOT can be held responsible for any exclusions, omissions nor deletions of relevant laws. If you have questions or concerns regarding North Carolina law pertaining to bicycles or pedestrians, you may wish to consult an attorney.

Produced by the Institute for Transportation Research and Education at North Carolina State University for the North Carolina Department of Transportation Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation.

Access an electronic version of this document at <a href="http://www.ncdot.org/transit/bicycle/laws/resources/lawsguidebook.html">http://www.ncdot.org/transit/bicycle/laws/resources/lawsguidebook.html</a>.

Permission to reproduce this document may be obtained by contacting the Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation, 1552 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1552 or via email at <a href="mailto:bikeped\_transportation@dot.nc.us">bikeped\_transportation@dot.nc.us</a>.

Funding for development and printing of this document provided by the Governor's Highway Safety Program 3500 copies of this guide were printed at a cost of \$1.33 each.

## Table of Contents

The Purpose of this Guide	5 PART -1
Bicyclists and the Law	
The Bicycle and the Operator: Equipment Required	. 7
Bicycle Helmets & Seats	
Bicycle Lights	
The Bicycle and the Operator: Bicyclist Behavior	
Riding on the Right	
Impaired Driving	
Reckless Operation	
Stopping on the Highway or Bridge	
Bicycle Racing	
_	
Bicycles and Facilities	10
Signs and Signals	10
One-Way Streets	11
Interactions with Others	11
Signaling and Turning	11
Yielding Right-of-Way to Vehicles	12
Yielding Right-of-Way to Pedestrians	12
Passing Another Vehicle	12
Passing on the Right	13
Being Passed	13
Crashes.	13
Reporting a Crash	14 14
Pedestrians and the Law	. 15 PART - 1
Pedestrians and Facilities	15
Signals	15
Walking Along the Road	16
Railroad Signals	16
Regarding Physical Impairment	16 16
•	10
Interactions with Others.	16
Right-of-Way at Crosswalks	16
Right Turn on Red	17
Yielding to Vehicles	17
Yielding to Pedestrians Outside of Crosswalks and Intersections	
	17
	17 17
Blind Pedestrians	17
Blind Pedestrians	17 18
Blind Pedestrians	17 18 18
Blind Pedestrians Audible Warning Keeping the Roadway Clear Motorists' Responsibilities	17 18 18 . <b>19</b> PART -
Blind Pedestrians Audible Warning Keeping the Roadway Clear  Motorists' Responsibilities  Motorists and Bicyclists	17 18 18 . <b>19</b> PART -
Blind Pedestrians Audible Warning Keeping the Roadway Clear  Motorists' Responsibilities  Motorists and Bicyclists Bicycles as Vehicles	17 18 18 . <b>19</b> PART -
Blind Pedestrians Audible Warning Keeping the Roadway Clear  Motorists' Responsibilities  Motorists and Bicyclists Bicycles as Vehicles Passing a Bicycle	17 18 18 <b>. 19</b> PART -
Blind Pedestrians Audible Warning Keeping the Roadway Clear  Motorists' Responsibilities  Motorists and Bicyclists Bicycles as Vehicles	17 18 18 • <b>19</b> PART - 19 19
Blind Pedestrians Audible Warning Keeping the Roadway Clear  Motorists' Responsibilities  Motorists and Bicyclists Bicycles as Vehicles Passing a Bicycle Following Too Closely Yielding to Bicyclists at Driveways or Alleys	17 18 18 . <b>19</b> PART - 19 19 19 20 20
Blind Pedestrians Audible Warning Keeping the Roadway Clear  Motorists' Responsibilities  Motorists and Bicyclists Bicycles as Vehicles Passing a Bicycle Following Too Closely Yielding to Bicyclists at Driveways or Alleys  Motorists and Pedestrians	17 18 18 . <b>19</b> PART - 19 19 19 20
Blind Pedestrians Audible Warning Keeping the Roadway Clear  Motorists' Responsibilities  Motorists and Bicyclists Bicycles as Vehicles Passing a Bicycle Following Too Closely. Yielding to Bicyclists at Driveways or Alleys  Motorists and Pedestrians Yielding to Pedestrians in Crosswalks, Driveways.	17 18 18 . <b>19</b> PART - 19 19 19 20 20 20
Blind Pedestrians Audible Warning Keeping the Roadway Clear  Motorists' Responsibilities  Motorists and Bicyclists Bicycles as Vehicles Passing a Bicycle Following Too Closely. Yielding to Bicyclists at Driveways or Alleys  Motorists and Pedestrians Yielding to Pedestrians in Crosswalks, Driveways Yielding at Right Turn on Red	17 18 18 . <b>19</b> PART - 19 19 19 20 20 20 20
Blind Pedestrians Audible Warning Keeping the Roadway Clear  Motorists' Responsibilities  Motorists and Bicyclists Bicycles as Vehicles Passing a Bicycle Following Too Closely. Yielding to Bicyclists at Driveways or Alleys  Motorists and Pedestrians Yielding to Pedestrians in Crosswalks, Driveways Yielding at Right Turn on Red Audible Warning Watching Out for Pedestrians	17 18 18 . <b>19</b> PART - 19 19 19 20 20 20 20 20
Blind Pedestrians Audible Warning Keeping the Roadway Clear  Motorists' Responsibilities  Motorists and Bicyclists Bicycles as Vehicles Passing a Bicycle Following Too Closely. Yielding to Bicyclists at Driveways or Alleys  Motorists and Pedestrians Yielding to Pedestrians in Crosswalks, Driveways Yielding at Right Turn on Red Audible Warning	17 18 18 19 19 19 20 20 20 20 20 20 20
Blind Pedestrians Audible Warning Keeping the Roadway Clear  Motorists' Responsibilities  Motorists and Bicyclists Bicycles as Vehicles Passing a Bicycle Following Too Closely. Yielding to Bicyclists at Driveways or Alleys  Motorists and Pedestrians Yielding to Pedestrians in Crosswalks, Driveways Yielding at Right Turn on Red Audible Warning Watching Out for Pedestrians	17 18 18 19 19 19 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 21

Other Responsibilities  Regarding Bicycles  Bicycling on the Interstate  Riding Two or More Abreast  Headphones  Riding on Sidewalks  Regarding Pedestrians  Definition of Pedestrian  Hitchhiking on Interstates  Rollerblades and Skateboards	22 22 22 22 23 23 23 23 23 23 23	PART - 4
More Information	23	
Local Ordinances  Issues Sometimes Addressed by Local Ordinances Dogs Bicycling on Sidewalks Greenways and Multi-Use Pathways More Stringent Helmet Laws Rollerblades and Skateboards Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Devices Contributory Negligence	24 24 25 25 25 25 25 25	PART - 5
North Carolina General Statutes Introduction. Definitions in the General Statutes General Statutes Related to Bicycles General Statutes Related to Pedestrians. Laws Related to Both Bicyclists and Pedestrians.	27 27 33 53	PART - 6
Links to Resources  NCDOT Division of Bicycle & Pedestrian Transportation.  North Carolina General Statutes  Municipal Ordinances  Resource Guide on Pedestrian and Bicycle Laws  Laws Pertaining to Bicycles.  Bicycle and Pedestrian Information Center  Legislation and Policies Affecting Bicycles  Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety		PART - 7

#### Links to Resources

The following online resources offer additional information about laws related to bicycles and pedestrians as well as safety materials Links to Resources to help educate all highway users.

NCDOT Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation (DBPT)

The DBPT Web site offers information on North Carolina bicycle and pedestrian laws and policies. Knowledge of these state policies is important because North Carolina General Statute 143B-350(f) states that policies set forth by the North Carolina Board of Transportation shall stand as law: http://www.ncdot.org/transit/bicycle/laws/ laws intro.html.

#### North Carolina General Statutes

Chapter 20 of the General Statutes contains laws related to bicycles, pedestrians, motor vehicles, highways, crosswalks, sidewalks, and "rules of the road." You can access specific statutes at this Web site: http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/statutes/ statutesTOC.pl.

**Municipal Ordinances** 

The Municipal Code Corporation, or MuniCode, Web site provides online access to the ordinances of many North Carolina cities, towns, and counties as well as those of innumerable other US localities: http://www.municode.com/.

#### Resource Guide on Pedestrian and **Bicvcle Laws**

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has compiled a resource guide on bicycle and pedestrian laws that is available for download at this http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/ injury/pedbimot/ped/resourceguide/.

### Laws Pertaining to Bicycles

Supported by the Massachusetts Bicycling Coalition, this Web site contains an extensive set of Web site links for information on bicycle laws and legal issues in U.S. states and cities, Canada, Europe and the Uniform Vehicle Code: <a href="http://www.massbike.org/bikelaw/bikelaw.htm">http://www.massbike.org/bikelaw/bikelaw.htm</a>.

#### Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center

This Web site contains some of the most extensive online resources for bicycle and pedestrian issues such as design and engineering, safety, policy, crash information, research, and community involvement: <a href="http://www.pedbikeinfo.org/">http://www.pedbikeinfo.org/</a>.

# Legislation and Policies Affecting Bicycles

http://www.bikeleague.org/educenter/index.html.

#### Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration, this Web site offers comprehensive online resources for bicycle safety, crash data, and other issues related to bicycle laws: http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/ped\_bike.htm.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) produces a variety of materials to help pedestrians and bicyclists obey the law and keep themselves safe. You can access information about NHTSA's catalog at this site: <a href="http://www.nhtsa.com/people/outreach/media/catalog/index.cfm">http://www.nhtsa.com/people/outreach/media/catalog/index.cfm</a>.

A Guide to North Carolina **Bicycle and Pedestrian Laws** 

A Validable tool for bicyclists, bedistrians, Mailable tool for old entered being the formary AND LOT 1823 AND THE REPORT OF THE PRINTING OF Bicyclists and pedestrians are a growing part of the transportation equation in North Carolina as citizens are encouraged to adopt a more active lifestyle.

Many communities are working to make their neighborhoods and downtowns more hospitable to both cyclists and walkers. But these positive changes are happening at the same time that more people are driving more miles in their motor vehicles; thus, the chances of clashes and crashes with motor vehicles increases for those walking and bicycling.

This guide, intended for use by educators, law enforcement officials, planners, and citizens, serves as a valuable tool for education and enforcement of bicycle and pedestrian laws and also serves as a reference to motorists' responsibilities in inter-actions with bicyclists and pedestrians. Access an electronic version of this booklet at: http:// www.ncdot.org/transit/bicycle/laws/ resources/lawsguidebook.html